

REMARKS:

Claims 1-10, 13-19 have been amended. Thus claims 1-10, 13-19 are pending in this application.

35 USC §112 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 10 and 19 for lack of antecedent basis and indefiniteness. Applicant amended claims 10 and 19 to more clearly point out the invention and to overcome the lack of antecedent basis. These claims now recite "*wherein marginal areas around the holes are at least partially compressed.*" Thus, the marginal areas in these claims refer to the area around the holes as disclosed in paragraph [0018] of the specification.

35 USC §102 Rejection

The Examiner states that Tashiro discloses all the limitations of the present claims 1-5, 7, 13, 14, and 16. Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, to further prosecution, Applicant amended the independent claim 1 to more clearly distinguish the present application from the prior art.

The current claim 1 refers to an actuator comprising a piezoelectric actuator. Such a piezoelectric actuator comprises contact pins which are used to control the actuator. Tashiro on the contrary merely discloses a piezoelectric receiver. Such a receiver is not an actuator and is therefore used as a sensor. Furthermore, such a receiver does not comprise contact pins as required by the amended claim. Thus, Tashiro relates to a different technical field and is, therefore, not pertinent in the art of the present invention.

Claims 2-5, 7, 13, 14, and 16 are dependent claims which include all the limitations of the independent claim 1. Therefore, these claims are at least patentable to the extent of claim 1. However, these claims include limitations in combination with independent claim 1 which are neither disclosed nor mentioned in the prior art.

35 USC §103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 15 as being unpatentable over Tashiro et al in view of Montgomery. As stated above, Applicant believes that Tashiro is not related to the technical field of the present invention. However, Montgomery does also not disclose the contact pins included in the amended independent claim 1. Claims 6 and 15 are dependent claims which include all the limitations of the independent claim 1. Therefore, these claims are also at least patentable to the extent of claim 1. However, these claims include limitations in combination with independent claim 1 which are neither disclosed nor mentioned in the prior art.

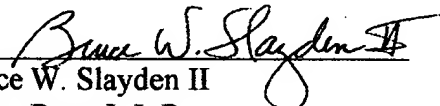
CONCLUSION

The application as defined in the pending claims is patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 in view of the cited prior art. Therefore, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants do not believe that any other fees are due at this time; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 02-0383, (*formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.*) Order Number 071308.0516

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